Life of a Ballot

Ballot packet assembled – includes ballot, security envelope and return envelope.

Ballot packets sorted for bulk mailing and delivered to Post Office for mailing.

Post Office delivers ballot packet to voter.

Ballot packet received by voter. Voter reads instructions and uses black pen to vote the ballot.

Voter places completed ballot in security envelope, puts the security envelope in the return envelope and then signs the return envelope.

Elections staff verify signature on return envelope against signature in voter's registration file.

Elections staff sorts and scans envelopes into batches.

Post Office delivers daily to Auditor's office. County Elections Officials gather envelopes from the drop boxes and office collection boxes.

Voter either mails envelope, drops it off at a Ballot Drop Box or Auditor's office by Election Day.

If signature does not match, County Elections staff contacts voter to verify identity and update signature before processing.

If signature does match, return envelope is opened and security envelope is removed. Return envelope is archived.

Security envelope is opened and ballot is removed. Security envelope is archived.

Elections staff manually inspect ballot to verify that voter has followed directions. Ballots not machine readable are duplicated.

Ballot data cards inserted in tabulation machine after 8:00pm on Election night. Results posted on website.

Ballots are scanned and resolved. Information placed on ballot data cards. Ballots are returned to tray and stored in a secure room.